

BOOK REVIEWS

CALIFORNIA MEDICINE does not review all books sent to it by the publishers. A list of new books received is carried in the Advertising Section.

READINGS IN MODERN SURGERY—Edited by Richard H. Egdahl, MD, Professor and Chairman, Department of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine; and John A. Mannick, MD, Professor of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine. Grune & Stratton, Inc., 111 Fifth Avenue, New York City (10003), 1973. 670 pages, \$21.50 (Hardcover), \$14.50 (Softcover).

This volume consists of 58 selected papers from current surgical literature. Individual subject headings such as stomach, transplantation, tumors, etc., may be represented by one to five papers. In addition each paper is followed by an overview by the senior author and by an annotated bibliography.

I'm afraid that for the surgeon, the material in this volume is largely repetitive. The articles have previously been published in surgical journals and may have been presented before surgical societies. The same can be said for the articles in the annotated bibliography.

However, this volume may have more to offer the non-surgeon than the surgeon. Students, residents and internists may find it a ready source for current information and thought on diverse surgical problems. In this regard the selection and organization of the subject headings, the overview and annotated bibliography may be especially helpful and would complement information in a standard surgical textbook as intended.

EDWARD PASSARO, JR., MD

* * *

RESPIRATION IN HEALTH AND DISEASE—Second Edition—Reuben M. Chernick, MD, Professor of Medicine, University of Manitoba, Director, Joint Respiratory Programme, University of Manitoba, Head, Section of Respiratory Diseases, Winnipeg General Hospital, Director, Respiratory Division, Clinical Investigation Unit, Winnipeg General Hospital, Physician, Winnipeg General Hospital and Rehabilitation Hospital—D. A. Stewart Centre; Louis Chernick MD, Associate Professor of Medicine, University of Manitoba, Physician, Winnipeg General Hospital and Rehabilitation Hospital—D. A. Stewart Centre; Arnold Naimark, MD, Dean of Medicine, Professor and Head, Department of Physiology, University of Manitoba, Associate Director, Respiratory Division, Clinical Investigation Unit, Winnipeg General Hospital, Physician, Winnipeg General Hospital, W. B. Saunders Company, West Washington Square, Philadelphia (19105), 1972. 496 pages with 115 illustrations, \$14.50.

This volume provides a forthright, compact, well-organized orientation to the field of applied pulmonary physiology where practiced in settings which rely on laboratory-based information for intelligent therapeutic action. Accordingly, it would be of value to the practitioner, house staff officer, or student. The volume is based on the considerable research and practical experience of its three authors, all respected scientists in their own rights, with assistance in the pediatric area from Victor Chernick, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Manitoba. It is broad in scope, covering the vast majority of subjects that are of current interest in the field of respiration. As such, some subjects of importance are treated too briefly, such as the discussion of mechanisms underlying hypoxia, but in general the overview is timely. The sections on the pulmonary circulation, respiratory control mechanisms, the aging lung, neonatal pulmonary physiology and exercise physiology are as sound as any I have read. The book covers in sufficient detail newer tests of considerable importance, such as frequency-dependence of compliance, "closing volumes," and immune secretory globulins. The book would be especially useful to students in respiratory therapy and cardiopulmonary technology, as well as for quick review by house officers before entering formal postdoctoral training in the various pulmonary specialties.

Another outstanding attribute of this book is its easily readable style. The sections on pulmonary mechanics, blood gas analysis and physical diagnosis of the chest are particularly delightful in the style with which they are written.

With all these "pluses," it is disturbing to note that several errors in the script, some of them quite misleading, have been carried over from the first to the current, second edition. The majority, but not all of these errors are simple typographical ones, or mistakes in notation or orientation of the figures. Other errors, such as the concept that maintenance of an arterial PO_2 of 80-100 mm Hg. is necessary in the average patient, are grossly misleading in the terms of current physiologic thinking.

Still, all in all, in a relatively arid literary wasteland where the usual introduction to clinical pulmonary physiology is more often a treatment than a "treat," the volume is a welcome addition, which can only be improved by careful editing in its next edition.

GEORGE G. BURTON, MD

* * *

DISEASES OF THE BREAST—Second Edition—C. D. Haagensen, MD, Professor Emeritus of Clinical Surgery, The College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, W. B. Saunders Company, West Washington Square, Philadelphia, Pa. (19105), 1971. 829 pages with 578 illustrations, \$35.00.

The Second Edition of *Diseases of the Breast* is the most comprehensive and informative, and definitive work in its field.

Dr. C. D. Haagensen has brought his monumental first edition up-to-date, covering every aspect of diseases of the breast in a most authoritative fashion. Anatomy, physiology, pathology, and treatment are presented in a very readable, and yet very comprehensive fashion.

This book should be in the hands of every physician or surgeon who deals with diseases of the breast.

Dr. Haagensen takes up the controversial issue of how extensive surgical extirpation should be for cancer of the breast. He rigidly adheres to his time honored, classical radical mastectomy, and states with clarity and persuasion his conviction that there is no place for lesser operations. In this respect, despite identical clinical findings, Dr. Haagensen gives no consideration to the extreme biological variation in different cancers of the breast. The recent studies with newer isotopes indicate that a significant number of patients with clinical stage-I cancer of the breast have, in fact, bony metastases. It is obvious that the most radical local operation will not result in cure, and in this area certainly consideration to lesser mutilating operation must be given.

Dr. Haagensen's persuasive support of the standard radical mastectomy is based on an abiding faith that most cancers of the breast are local growths. It seems likely to this reviewer that the next decade will produce evidence that the enormous biological variations in cancer of the breast will require therapy specifically designed for each particular patient. Increasing use of a modified radical operation, which if properly done, can be as complete as in the standard radical, is indicative of the changing mood of the medical profession in regard to this disease.

Despite the above comments, Dr. Haagensen's book will remain as one of the finest, most informative, and authoritative books in its field. The facts are there in